Availability of Mackerel colonies

1353. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge colonies of mackerel have been located in the Bay of Bengal off the Visakhapatnam coast;

(b) whether investigation has been carried out to identify reasons for abundant availability; and

(c) the action taken to export the excess catch of mackerel to foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Heavy landings of Indian mackerel by mechanized boats operating from Visakhapatnam fishing harbour has been reported during the months of January-April, 2003. The investigation showed that the concentrations were mainly found in the areas of Pudimadaka and Bhimunipatnam at a depth range of 40-50 mts. It has been reported that though the mackerel is an important fishery along the west coast of India, high incidence of shoals of this fish along the West Bengal, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh coast is not uncommon. The scientific investigations points to fluctuation in sea surface temperature, shortage of food in upper mixed layers and sinking of mixed layers during north-east monsoon as probable reasons for abundant availability of mackerel in this region.

(c) Due to the increased availability, the export of frozen mackerel has recorded almost four-fold increase from the port of Visakhapatnam, both in terms of quantity and value. Besides, a substantial quantity is being transported to the metropolitan cities in the neighbouring States in fresh/iced form. Curing and drying is also practiced for preservation and movement of excess catch to distant destinations.

KVKs in A.P.

1354. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the need and consistent demand of the State government, Cuddapah, Adilabad, Prakasam, Nizamabad and Khammam districts in Andhra Pradesh do not have Krishi-Vigyan Kendras (KVKs);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government propose to set up KVKs in these districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have strengthened the Zonal Agricultural Research Stations located in Adilabad and Prakasam districts to work as KVKs. Out of two KVKs located in Kurnool district, the functioning of the KVK located at Nandyal has been restructed/readjusted to take up its activities in the adjoining Cuddapah district.

The proposal for establishment of KVKs in Nizamabad and Khammam districts has been included in Xth Plan.

Assistance to Bihar production of Basmati Rice

†1355. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have been included in the list of Basmati Rice Grower States; whether Bihar has also been included in that list;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided by the Central Government to Bihar for the production of Basmati Rice, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Basmati

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.